

Middlebury Register.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1909.

The Rights of the People.

The editorials which we reproduce this week from the New York Daily Tribune and Daily World, show that the automobile question is rapidly assuming a new phase, that of stringent regulation, which public opinion in the great city of New York, sees will be absolutely necessary.

It takes the direction of demanding new laws licensing chauffeurs, and looks towards the legislature to meet their demands. It also fully endorses the veto of Gov. Hughes of the bill passed almost unanimously by the New York legislature at their last session permitting automobiles to regulate their own speed. We shall certainly soon hear more of these demands; for the accidents continue to increase, and will, until a sufficient remedy is applied.

And what is a sufficient remedy? The demand for far more precaution in licensing chauffeurs is good, as far as it goes, and will doubtless be met by the legislature. But neither this nor the laws limiting speed meets the difficulty. The trouble with all such laws is that they are not observed; on the contrary are constantly violated, not only by a few, but by the great majority of those who use automobiles, and always will be, unless the most stringent laws are made for their enforcement, the execution of which would necessitate very large expense, and the laws themselves otherwise be unsatisfactory.

There is but one way out of this difficulty, and the quicker and more generally it is taken, the better; and that is restricting automobiles to certain roads.

Any effort to control the situation short of this, is a mere waste of time, lives and property.

It becomes then important in Vermont to select men for the higher offices that are loyal to the people in this most important matter. As Governor, of names already mentioned, we doubt not Mr. Hapgood would be, and, as we understand it, Mr. Fleetwood; the two together might work well, the one being at one end of the State, and the other at the other end. We do not believe that anyone who owns an automobile can be nominated at this time, unless he gets rid of it. There may be other candidates that are all right, or they may be introduced hereafter.

Another thing must be looked after at this time, and that is the rights of the small towns. It is up to you, Vermonters—Green Mountain boys of the smaller towns, any town with 2000 or less inhabitants, or indeed any town that is not a city, to organize in each town for the protection of your constitutional right of representation, and to do it so thoroughly that it will be years before it will be attacked again. All the signs of a concerted attack against representation of the smaller towns in the State legislature, have been manifested, and quite openly for some time. It is for you to see that no man who would vote for such measure is elected to the legislature next fall. And it is your duty to see that the men chosen to the higher offices are chosen from among those who are loyal to Vermont in all her needs, and who will favor such regulation of automobiles, as will give the citizens who do not use them, at least their proportionate right to a safe use of the highways. That is, have certain roads which automobiles are not permitted to use, following the lead which has been set in this matter by our kindred New England State of Maine.

The section of the laws there passed will be found in the letter on this page from a valued correspondent, headed "Protecting the Rights of the Public".

In this way all will have certain roads which they can soon reach, that they can use with both comfort and safety. This will be especially a great relief to women and children, and indeed to all who use horses or go a-foot.

Miss Grace Todd Dead.

Amsterdam, N. Y., Dec. 18.—Miss Grace Todd, of Arcola, Ill., field secretary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal church of America, died this morning at a hospital in this city as a result of injuries in an automobile collision with a carriage in which she was driving.

Miss Todd spent many years in Missionary work in China, and for the last ten years had been lecturing throughout the United States in the interest of her work.

TO LICENSE CHAUFFEURS.

New Motor-Vehicle Law Likely to be Passed by Legislature—Provision to Examine Drivers and Issue and Revoke Licenses.

Special Dispatch to The Troy Times. Albany, Dec. 21.—A reconstruction of the motor vehicle law, designed particularly to regulate the driving of automobiles in the streets of the cities and villages and the highways of the towns will be among the important subjects which the coming session of the next Legislature will be asked to consider. It is known that Governor Hughes is deeply interested in this question and will no doubt discuss the matter again in his annual message to the Legislature.

In his message to the last Legislature the governor said: "The difficulty of maintaining our highways has been so largely increased by the use of motor vehicles that I recommend for your consideration the advisability of imposing a substantial tax for the privilege of operating motor vehicles within the state, the proceeds to be devoted to highway repair."

A bill designed to carry out the Governor's recommendation was introduced and after considerable discussion was passed. The bill did not meet with the approval of all those interested in automobile legislation, particularly a provision which practically eliminated speed regulations. This and other features were objectionable to the governor and he vetoed the measure.

Secretary of State Koenig, who now has control over the insurance of automobile licenses; Police Commissioner Baker of New York, the National Highway Protective Society, with headquarters in New York, and others are now at work receiving suggestions relative to proposed legislation.

The National Highway Protective Society has suggested the appointment of a commission for the issuing and revoking of licenses for chauffeurs and the regulation of conditions that will tend to reduce reckless driving of cars. The bill vetoed by the Governor did not contain a provision for the regulation of chauffeurs. The proposed commission is to consist of three members to be appointed by the Governor, which shall have the sole issuing of licenses to drivers of automobiles and motorcycles, such licenses to be issued only after the applicant has passed an examination as to his ability to drive a machine under congested conditions, and after an examination also as to his mechanical knowledge. The society favors the paying of a fee of \$3 for a license and \$1 annually for a renewal of a license. The society believes the fee should be the same for both professional chauffeur and owner of a car or motorcycle.

It is understood that bills embodying the view of Secretary of State Koenig and Police Commissioner Baker will be introduced early at the coming session of the Legislature.

Report on Auto Accidents

William F. Baker, Police Commissioner, sent an order yesterday to the captain of the different precincts to forward with their returns duplicate reports showing the number of automobile accidents that occurred in their precincts between January 1, 1909, and December 19, 1909. Mr. Baker said that he wished to make the statistics the basis of a new law governing the granting of automobile licenses, which he desired to have introduced in the next session of the Legislature.

Eugene Philip, chauffeur for James Laidlaw, was arrested yesterday afternoon for speeding on Madison avenue. Mrs. Laidlaw, who was in the car, gave bail, offering her household silver as surety. Daniel Breisheider, was arrested twice for speeding yesterday. As soon as he had deposited bail in the Morrisania station after the first arrest, he got as far as 149th street, on Third avenue, when he was apprehended again.—New York Tribune.

"The new laws imposing stricter regulations and heavier tax on automobiles undoubtedly will be passed at the coming session of the legislature," said J. M. Wainwright of Rye, one of the leaders of the State Senate, speaking to The World yesterday.

"I think it is certain there will be a very considerable increase of revenue from owners of automobiles. This seems to me a justifiable tax. More damage is done to our roads by automobiles than by all other factors combined. These roads have been constructed at great expense to communities, and it is only proper automobile owners should be made to pay for the damage they do.—New York World.

Seven Dead.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 26.—Nicholas Jacobs, a real estate dealer, his two daughter and his two sons are dead, and Mrs. Jacobs and her two-month-old baby are dying as a result of a collision between an automobile in which they were riding and a trolley car on the Los Angeles & Santa Anna line, six miles from Los Angeles.

Two other sons of Jacobs, Peter and John, and Miss Josephine Solon, nineteen years old, jumped from the automobile and escaped with slight injuries.

"Dean's Ointment cured me of eczema that had annoyed me a long time. The cure was permanent."—Hon. S. W. Matthews, Commissioner Labor Statistics, Augusta, Me.

A Fifteen-year-old Chauffeur.

A boy fifteen years old was arrested on Monday for operating on automobile at thirty-five miles an hour through the streets of Flushing. It was his own automobile. His proud father is said to have occupied a seat in it, and the child had a license from the public authorities to operate it. The situation summed up the automobile evil. It illustrated the willingness of parents to provide their immature children with these expensive and dangerous vehicles, the readiness of men of presumably good sense to risk their own necks riding behind youthful and irresponsible chauffeurs and the reckless attitude of the public authorities who license fools, drunkards and children to drive huge and dangerous engines through crowded streets.

The folly of fools is protected by the Declaration of Independence. The pursuit of it is for them the pursuit of happiness, and it is, accordingly, one of their inalienable rights. Doting parents can no more be restrained from indulgence of the children they have spoiled than they can be deprived of life or liberty. Men can no more be prevented from riding behind incompetent and dangerous chauffeurs, so long as incompetent and dangerous chauffeurs receive licenses, than they can be robbed of any of their other constitutional rights.

There is thus only one way to approach the abuse of automobiles, and that is through a reasonable attitude of the state toward the licensing of chauffeurs. We should say that the state might begin by declining to grant licenses to babes in arms, and from that simple minimum it might gradually stiffen its requirements, until imbeciles, epileptics, drunkards, drug fiends, deaf men, blind men and all other kinds of deficient were barred from the privilege of driving ten-ton engines through crowded thoroughfares. It is a very careful state in spots, for the same public authorities who licensed the Flushing boy to operate his thirty-five-mile-an-hour plaything require that a steam roller, which in the hands of a speed maniac might make three miles an hour, shall be operated only by an engineer of experience and be preceded when traveling through the public streets by a man with a red flag.—New York Tribune.

The Irrepressible Issue.

No day passes that the automobile does not by defying public sentiment and outraging the general sense of decency demand its own better regulation. Now a faithful switchman of thirty-five years' experience is killed at his post at 4:30 a. m. by a chauffeur who has been making a night of it. Now a boy of fifteen, armed for suicide or slaughter with a high-power auto by a foolish father, is caught running at dangerous speed. Now a foreign Consul-General is run down in blinding rain by some coward who escapes.

Moderate users of the automobile who respect the rights of others, chauffeurs who are skilled and sober, need new legislation as much as does the man who walks or the playing child. They need it for protection not only from the road-hogs but from the indiscriminate anger of the public, which is now unable to discriminate between those who use autos and those who abuse them.

The World has no desire to say what the State should require of auto drivers. On that point it would be glad to hear from its readers. But there are some things which every one knows should not be permitted. Children should not be armed with autos than with rifles. No man who has driven an auto while drunk should ever drive one again. No one should be licensed to drive upon paying \$2 without any proof of competence. The State should never, as last year's foolish bill proposed, release for \$10 a year a \$5,000 automobile from local taxation while a poor man's \$5,000 house in the suburbs is taxed more than \$100; nor should it relax by one iota the prohibition of speed on the road, nor interfere with local power to safeguard traffic.

The automobile is the storm-center of an irrepressible issue. It is almost the chief cause, in the metropolis at least, of that "class consciousness" and class bitterness which are so lamentable in a republic. The problems it has raised will never be settled until they are settled right.—New York World.

Six Killed By Autos With Boy Chauffeurs.

St. Louis, Dec. 14.—Six persons have been killed by automobiles driven by boy chauffeurs in this city in the last five months, and an ordinance prohibiting the employment of youths under twenty-one years of age to drive cars probably will be passed.

Roy C. Eilers, Chairman of a Special Committee on License Revision of the House of Delegates, said to-day that he will also ask the committee to favor a bill for the creation of a board of examiners to determine the mechanical and character qualifications of applicants for chauffeurs' licenses.

Theodore R. Ballard, President of the Ballard-Massmore Grain Company and former President of the Merchants' Exchange, who was killed last night by an automobile driven by George G. Ehardt, an eighteen-year-old boy, was the sixth victim.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON TO ALL.

CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAY SHOPPING IS NOW ON

THE place for the people of this part of Addison County is the "Popular Clothing House" of C. N. Atwood & Co.

At present this store may rightfully be called the "Popular Holiday House."

We have anticipated your desires at this festive season and provided something attractive in the way of gifts for the entire family.

Toys, jack knives, story books, fancy glove, handkerchief and jewelry boxes.

Tie boxes, combs and collars, handkerchiefs in abundance.

Purses, handbags, cases, canes, umbrellas, cuff links, stick pins, rings, watches, pencils, suspenders in box or bulk, fancy arm bands, gaiters for ladies, gents and children.

Fancy and plain hosiery for all, gloves and mittens.

Fancy and staple shirts, waistcoats, smoking jackets and bath robes.

Holiday decorations. Fur caps and mufflers. A thousand articles to see when you call.

While thinking of Xmas gifts don't forget that we are the large and thoroughly well equipped clothing house between Burlington and Boston.

Furnishings for ladies, gents, and children.

N. B. Don't fail to see our counter of hand-made, fancy goods for Christmas presents. Every stitch guaranteed.

Trade here, receive tickets and win an Xmas present from us. FIFTY DOLLARS worth given to somebody.

Our Customers' Wants Are Ours.

C. N. ATWOOD & COMPANY

NEW ATWOOD BUILDING.

Main Street,

Middlebury, Vt.

Protecting The Rights of the Public.

A correspondent writes:

The people of the state of Maine have set a good example to the people of our State. They recently chose legislators who made laws for the protection of the public, not for the benefit of the owners of automobiles. In the first place the Maine legislators passed laws authorizing the citizens of certain towns to exclude automobiles from their limits altogether. In the second place they have authorized the citizens of a number of towns to exclude such vehicles from certain specified highways; the notice "No Automobiles Allowed on This Road" being posted at the entrance of every road to be closed. In the third place they provided that who ever should "set up, use, drive or operate" any automobile in any town where they were prohibited should be fined \$20 and costs for the first offence, and for the second should be fined \$50 and costs, or be imprisoned not more than sixty days, or be both imprisoned and fined. Under this act it would seem that not only the driver but every occupant of the automobile violating the law might be dealt with. There is also a general statute in Maine, entitled "The Law of the Road", under which the speed of automobiles on any highway in the state is limited to fifteen miles an hour, and to eight miles in villages, unless the authorities permit a greater speed. There are several good features in this law to which we shall give attention later. Meanwhile the people of Vermont might be thinking whether they can find men to send to the legislature who will guard their interests, and protect them against the outrages of which the owners of automobiles are constantly guilty. We are entitled to as good laws as the people of Maine, and we can have them if we choose the right men to represent us. Moreover, we want not only good laws, we want the laws enforced.

Hurt in Auto Crash.

An automobile owned and driven by Peter Gifford, of Brooklyn, who was accompanied by Dr. Edward Newman, and Charles Windbolt, crashed into a tree in the Ocean Parkway late yesterday afternoon.

The occupants were thrown to the ground, and though not fatally injured yet were badly hurt. Dr. Newman's legs were both fractured and Windbolt's nose was broken. Gifford escaped with superficial bruises, having jumped from the machine when he saw the crash was coming. The machine was completely wrecked.—New York Tribune.

A Christmas Carol.

Once more the joyful Christmas bells Ring o'er the land, from sea to sea, Once more the heavenly music swells, In strains of sweetest melody.

O Babe of Bethlehem! born today, No royal gifts to Thee we bring, But at Thy blessed feet we lay Our hearts, and own Thee Lord and King.

Reign Thou supreme o'er all below! And, at this happy Christmas tide, "Peace and good-will" each heart shall know.

And joy shall evermore abide

ORA E. WALKER WOODWARD.

WHEN YOU'RE AS HOARSE AS A CROW, When you're coughing and gasping, When you're an old fashioned deep seated cold, Take Allen's Lung Balm. Sold by all drug

gists, 25c, 50c and \$1.00 bottles. 3214

Bay Shore Runaway Fatal.

Bay Shore, Long Island, Dec. 18.—Caleb T. Smith, one of the best known real estate men in Suffolk County, was killed in a runaway accident here to-day. Mr. Smith was driving a young horse when the animal became frightened at an automobile and ran into a peanut stand, throwing him from the wagon. His skull was fractured and he died in a few minutes.

He "Fixed" His Auto Loss \$15,000

While repairing his automobile at his poultry farm in Asbury Park, Charles Lee Bowler was blown through the door of his garage by the explosion of the machine. The auto and the garage were entirely destroyed, causing a loss of \$15,000.

Auto and Buggy Crash.

Fitchburg, Dec. 12.—A large touring car owned and driven by J. F. B. Hale of this city was in collision with a carriage in which was Joseph Richards of Leominster on Water St. late last night. Mr. Richards was thrown out and received several bruises about the body. The buggy was badly damaged. The automobile was damaged considerably and Mr. Hale was shaken up.

One Day Early This Week.

The Register is printed on Thursday this week, one day earlier than usual. This is done principally for the benefit of the merchants who advertise with us, to get the paper to the readers in time for them to look over the advertising pages and see the many attractive articles for gifts which are offered. It is not too late to make purchases for Christmas gifts and a glance at the announcements of the Register's advertisers will show many beautiful and useful things which would be very acceptable by relatives and friends.

Forefathers' Day Observed.

Forefathers' Day, commemorating the 289th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims, was observed by the Middlebury Historical Society in the Congregational church Tuesday evening, when the program published in the Register last week was carried out.

After the exercises a supper was served in the lecture room of the church by the ladies of the Labaree society at which toasts, music and speeches were given. About 200 attended the meeting.

Resolutions of Condolence.

Whereas: It has pleased our Heavenly Father to remove from among us our late sister, Mrs. Agnes Belden, therefore be it Resolved: By Alma Hendee Chapter of O. E. S., No. 72, that while we bow in humble submission to the will of the Most High, we sincerely mourn the loss of our worthy and respected sister.

Resolved: That in her death the Chapter loses one of its most faithful and respected members.

Resolved: That these resolutions be placed upon our records, the same be published and a copy be sent to the family of the deceased.

R. H. FRIEDEL,
 MISS MARIA WARD,
 MISS ALMIRA WARD,
 Com.

Shoreham, Vt., Dec. 16.

MANY CHILDREN ARE SICKLY.
 Mother Gray's Sweet Powders for Children, used by Mother Gray, a nurse in Children's Home, New York, break up Colic in 24 hours, cure Feverishness, Headache, Stomach Troubles, Teething Disorders and destroy Worms. At all druggists, 25c. Sample mailed FREE. Address: Allen S. Olmstead, LeRoy, N. Y. 5211

We have had a good Christmas trade on

SLIPPERS

but the lots are somewhat broken as to sizes. The assortment is still good, however and what there are left will be subject to a . . .

DISCOUNT OF 10 PER CENT.

G. L. LANPHER,

Middlebury, - Vermont.

HOLIDAY AT THE HARDWARE STORE

This store is filled with goods that will make practical useful, acceptable Gift-Giving easy. A selection now assures you the first choice of articles and the best attention. A few Christmas Gift suggestions, articles that are sure to please, that we can show you:

Safety Razors, Ingersoll \$1.00 Watches, Scissor Sets, Pocket Knives, Skates, Sleds, Nickle Ware, Crumb Trays, Manicure Sets, Chafing Dishes, Bread Makers, Enameled Roasters, Nickle Plated Sad Irons, etc., etc.

These and a hundred and one other beautiful and useful articles will be sure to please.

JOHN H. STEWART,

EVERYTHING IN HARDWARE

BATTELL BLOCK,

MIDDLEBURY, VT.